

D AL SURVEY

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Copy No. 255

## BRITISH INTELLIGENCE SURVEY

# SAUDI ARABIA

### Part VIII(B): TOWNS

DEFE 60/43

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JOINT INTELLIGENCE BUREAU  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
LONDON

DECEMBER 1963

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C.B. No 1. Sept 1964

C.B. No 2. June 1965

C.B. No 3. June 1966

C.B. No 4. Aug 1967

Notice May 73

D14/VIII B



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BRITISH INTELLIGENCE SURVEYS (B. I. S.)  
AND  
PORT INFORMATION SHEETS (P. I. S.)

## CHECK BULLETIN

No. 2

Date: June 1965

TO BE RETAINED WITH: (Title) BIS SAUDI ARABIA PART VIII(B) Towns

(Ref. No.) DL4/VIII(B)

(Dated) December 1963

LAST AMENDMENT: (No.)

(Date)

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Paragraph 23

**\*\*An oil refinery is under construction.**  
A detergent factory, and an additional leather factory have started production.

Paragraph 30

**\*\*A complete face lift for the city of RIYADH is planned,** cost to be included in next years State budget. Twenty-six new streets are to be constructed, twenty-two existing streets are to be paved and a further twenty streets installed with modern lighting. Future plans include the demolition of the old commercial centre and food market and the building of a modern shopping centre.

Paragraph 43

**\*\*Two x 600 kilowatt radio transmitters are under construction** 17 miles from Riyadh (location not known)

Paragraph 44

A cement factory is under construction. A mechanised gypsum factory is in production.

Paragraph 61

A contract for the development of a new water supply system has been signed.

Paragraph 62

A contract for the development of a new sewage disposal system has been signed.

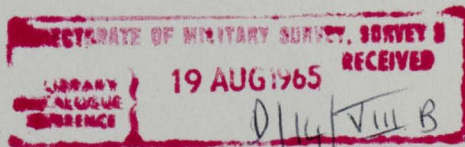
Paragraph 66

**\*\*A Petro Chemical Plant is under construction.** Ammonia production to be 600 tpd, sulphur 35 tpd.

Paragraph 98

The heading of the second column should be general description.  
A training college for oil and mineral specialists is being set up in DHAHRAN.  
A cement factory in HOFUF commenced production in 1963.

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PORT INFORMATION SHEETS (P. I. S.)

# CHECK BULLETIN

No. 1

Date: September 1964

TO BE RETAINED WITH: (Title) BIS Saudi Arabia Part VIII(B) Towns

(Ref. No.) DI4/VIII B

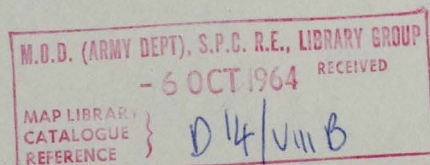
(Dated) December  
1963

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- \*\*PARA 23 An oil refinery is under construction.
- \*\*PARA 61 A contract for the development of a new water supply system has been signed.
- \*\*PARA 62 A contract for the development of a new sewage disposal system has been signed.
- \*\*PARA 98 The heading of the second column should be "General description".
- \*\* A training college for oil and mineral specialists is being set up in Dhahran.
- \*\* A cement factory in Hofuf commenced production in 1963.



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# CHECK BULLETIN

No. 3

Date: June 1966

TO BE RETAINED WITH: (Title) BIS SAUDI ARABIA PART VIII(B) TOWNS

(Ref. No.) D/14/VIII(B)

(Dated) December 1963

LAST AMENDMENT: (No.) -

(Date) -

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Page 8

\*\* a. Hotels. This section should now read:-

Para 14

No. of ROOMS

Red Sea Palace Hotel (33)	125
Al Haramain Palace Hotel (18)	93
Kandara Palace Hotel (27)	Not known
Jiddah Palace Hotel (35)	Not known
Cuaraish Palace Hotel	Not known

Page 9

\*\* The electric power capacity is 27,650 kW

Para 16

Page 9

\*\* Construction of the first iron and steel works in Saudi Arabia has commenced at the Petromin area near Jiddah.

Para 23

\*\* Construction of a sponge factory has been approved.

An oil refinery is under construction, a detergent factory and an additional leather factory have started production.

Page 10

Para 30

A complete 'face lift' for the city of RIYADH is planned, cost to be included in the State budget. Twenty six new streets are to be paved and a further twenty streets installed with modern lighting. Future plans include the demolition of the old commercial centre and food market and the building of a modern shopping centre.

Page 12

Para 43

Two x 600 kW radio transmitters are under construction 17 miles from Riyadh (exact location is not known)

\*\* A television station is now operating from RIYADH

\*\* RIYADH has an automatic telephone exchange.

Para 44

A cement factory is under construction. A mechanical gypsum factory is in production.

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Page 14  
Para 61 A contract for the development of a new water supply system has been signed.

Para 62 A contract for the development of a new sewage disposal system has been signed.

Para 65 \*\* A medium wave radio transmitter is being constructed for the Saudi Arabian Government. This will relay radio programmes from RIYADH when the transmitters now under construction commence operating (see para 43).

Para 66 \*\* A new paper products plant will shortly commence production

A Petro-chemical plant is under construction. Ammonia production is to be 600 t.p.d, sulphur 30 t.p.d.

Page 17  
Para 98 The heading of the second column should be general description.

A training college for oil and mineral specialists is being set up in DHAHRAN.

A cement factory in HOFUF commenced production in 1963.

\*\* A medium wave radio broadcasting station is operating from MECCA.

\*\* A new telephone exchange building is being constructed at MEDINA.

\*\* The first stage of the TAIF water project is now in hand. A pumping station and a reservoir are under construction and 35 kilometers of piping are being laid.

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No. 4 Date: August 1967

TO BE RETAINED WITH: (Title) B.I.S. SAUDI ARABIA, PART VIII(B)- TOWNS  
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LAST AMENDMENT: (No.) (Date)

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## Page 7

- Para 1. \*\*The total population is estimated to be 7 million
- Para 8. \*\*The latest estimate gives a population of 250,000 (1965).
- Para 11. \*\*The port of Jidda is currently being enlarged and modernised.

## Page 8

- Para 13. \*\*A new Ministry of Information building was inaugurated in April 1967.
- \*\*The Quarantine Station (58) has been expanded and can deal with 2408 pilgrims simultaneously.
- Para 14. \*\*a. Hotels: This section should now read:

	<u>No. of rooms</u>
Red Sea Palace Hotel (33)	125
Al Haramain Palace Hotel (18)	93
Kandara Palace Hotel (27)	Not known
Jidda Palace Hotel (35)	Not known
Al Haramain Hotel	Not known
Bahauddin Hotel	Not known

(All the above hotels have air conditioning)

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Page 9.

Para 16.

\*\*The electric power capacity is 27650 Kw. An electric power/desalinization plant is under construction, and due for completion in 1969. This will add 50,000 kw to the power capacity.

Para 17.

\*\*The power/desalinization plant under construction (see para 16) will have a water output of 5 million gallons per day.

Para 22.

\*\*An 1800 kw broadcasting transmitter is now operating. A temporary TV station has commenced transmitting.

Para 23.

Construction of the first iron and steel works in Saudi Arabia is continuing at the Petromin area near Jidda. Construction of a sponge factory has been approved. An oil refinery is under construction, a detergent factory and an additional leather factory have started production.

Para 25.

\*\*Additional cold storage is under construction.

Page 10.

Para 30.

A complete "face lift" for the city of Riyadh is planned, cost to be included in the State Budget. Twenty six new streets are to be paved and a further twenty streets installed with modern lighting. Future plans include the demolition of the old commercial centre and food market and the building of a modern shopping centre.

Para 31.

\*\*An estimate at the end of 1965 gives the population as 200,000.

Page 11

Para 37.

\*\*A medical school and teaching hospital is to be set up in conjunction with the Government Hospital.

Para 39.

\*\*The water distribution system is being modernised.

Page 12.

Para 43.

Two x 600 kw radio transmitters are under construction 17 miles from Riyadh (exact location not known). A television station is operating from Riyadh, an automatic telephone exchange has been installed.

Para 44.

\*\*A plant for the manufacture of glassware is to be established. A cement factory is under construction and a mechanised factory for the production of gypsum is in production.

Para. 46

\*\*Cold Store facilities are to be increased.

Page 14

Para 61.

A contract for the development of a new water supply has been signed.

Para 62.

A contract for the development of a new sewage disposal system has been signed.



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Para 65

A medium wave transmitter is being constructed. This will relay programmes from Riyadh when the new transmitters are operating from that city.

Para 66

\*\*A PVC is to be established with a capacity of 60,000 tons annually. A paper products plant will shortly commence production. A fertiliser plant is under construction.

Page 17

Para 98

The heading of the second column should be "General Description".

A training college for oil and mineral specialists is being set up in Dhahrun. A cement works in Hofuf commenced production in 1963.

A medium wave radio broadcasting stations is operating from Mecca.

A telephone exchange building is under construction at Medina.

The first stage of the Taif water project is now in hand. A pumping station and a reservoir are under construction and thirty five kilometres of piping are being laid.

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SAUDI ARABIA - TOWNS

D/14/VIII(B)

DECEMBER 1963

No updating material further to the issue of CB No 4 dated August 1967 (which must be retained) will be issued in respect of this document. Much of the information it contains will remain sufficiently valid for general reference purposes for a long period. The document is therefore not being withdrawn, but users are warned that they must apply to the issuing authority for the latest information whenever accuracy of detail is essential. This document must not be used for operational or planning purposes.

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MAY 1972

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# BRITISH INTELLIGENCE SURVEY ON SAUDI ARABIA

**(D. 14/VIII (B), December 1963)**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

of Defence, London

RECTORATE OF MILITARY SURVEY, SURVEY 3

MAP LIBRARY CATALOGUE REFERENCE } - 4 AUG 1964 RECEIVED



**D. 14/VIII (B)****BRITISH INTELLIGENCE SURVEY ON SAUDI ARABIA**

1. This report covers towns in Saudi Arabia and is one of a series dealing with subjects of particular interest to Service staffs. The reports are also distributed to various Government departments. A distribution list is given on p. 18. The various parts of the B.I.S. are issued separately for the convenience of users, and to speed up preparation and revision.

2. Other Parts of the B.I.S. which have been or will be issued in this series are as follows (date in brackets if issued).

III (B) Oil

V Transportation (January 1962)

VI Airfields (see paragraph 3 below)

VII Beaches and Landing Places

VIII (A) Terrain, Climate and Map Coverage

VIII (C) Military Engineering Resources

IX Defences (May 1962)

X (A) Health (September 1960)

X (B) Telecommunications

3. Information on Airfields and Flying Boat Bases is to be found in the Airfield Handbook J.I.B. 5/11 and Regional Study J.I.B./15/103/1 and 2. Ports are described in the J/4/4 series of Port Information Sheets. A general survey of Saudi Arabia is included in the J.I.B. series of Intelligence Briefing Memoranda (No. J/109).

4. The information in this report is that available in J.I.B. as at December 1963. Briefs referring to gaps in our information will be prepared after the issue of this B.I.S.

5. Place name spellings are as far as possible those found in the Series 1301, 1:1,000,000.

6. J.I.B. would welcome the views of users of this report on:

- (a) any statement considered incorrect;
- (b) any notable omissions;
- (c) any means of improving the method of presentation.

7. New information received in J.I.B. will be promulgated as soon as possible by the issue of one of the following, depending on circumstances:

- (a) A new edition of this report.
- (b) Check Bulletins.—These will show the main changes affecting the information contained in this report and in any amendments to it issued under (c) below. The Check Bulletin should be *retained with this report and consulted whenever the latter is used.* (As Check Bulletins are cumulative, only the latest need be retained.)
- (c) Amendments in the form of new pages, for incorporation in this report. It is important that such amendments should be correctly incorporated (and recorded on the sheet provided at the front of this report). In preparing Check Bulletins it is assumed that this has been done.



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8. Requests for further information, including more detail than that in the text, should be made to:

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JOINT INTELLIGENCE BUREAU,  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,  
METROPOLE BUILDINGS,  
NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE,  
LONDON, W.C. 2.

Telephone: WHITEHALL 8474, EXT. 637,

or to any overseas J.I.B.

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## SAUDI ARABIA: TOWNS

## CHAPTER 1

## GENERAL

1. The total population of Saudi Arabia can be estimated only roughly as no census has yet been taken. There are possibly 5-6 million people out of a total of some 10 million in the whole Arabian Peninsula.
2. Probably half or more of the population live on oases farms. The remainder are Bedouin, seamen, or engaged in the oil industry, Government service, the professions or commerce.
3. In April 1963 the Ministry of Finance and National Economy published a Survey of Population and Establishments in Riyadh and Western Province cities; accurate population figures are therefore now available for this area.
4. The national religion is Moslem with a fair sized minority of Shi'ites amongst the predominantly Sunni population.

## CHAPTER 2

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF MAIN TOWNS OF SAUDI ARABIA

## INTRODUCTION

5. This chapter describes the main towns of Jidda, Riyadh, Damman and Al Khobar. Plans for Jidda and Riyadh are included in the end pocket. In the following description, the number in brackets after a building or installation refers to its position on the plan. When no numbers appear exact locations are unknown.

## JIDDA

21° 30' N., 39° 12' E. Population 147,859 (1963)

## Plan 2

## GENERAL

6. The port of Jidda, situated on the Red Sea, is the most important commercial centre in western Arabia. Most pilgrims to Mecca and most imports into the Hijaz enter through Jidda. Many business concerns, including foreign consultants and banks, have offices in the city.
7. Jidda has modern sea and air ports both of which attract an increasing amount of international traffic. The Saudi Arabian Government maintains its Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jidda.

## POPULATION AND LABOUR

8. A survey in 1963 gives the population as 147,859. Semi-skilled labour is available at the port and at industrial undertakings. Unskilled labour is plentiful.

## THROUGH ROUTES AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

9. Through routes are shown in red on the plan. These lead by waterproof surface road south-east to Mecca and Taif, thence by motorable road to Riyadh and the Eastern Province; also north by waterproof surfaced road to Medina and Dar al Hamra, thence by motorable road to the Jordan frontier.
10. There is no railway system at Jidda.
11. A modern seaport links western Arabia with Europe, Asia and Africa.
12. There is a joint military and international airport (22) approximately 2½ miles north-east of the town.



## ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

## 13. Administrative and public buildings in Jidda include:

Ministry of Health, Quarantine Station (58)  
 The Sudanese Embassy, King Saud Street (51)  
 Customs House, Customs Island (52)  
 Thailand Consulate, Medina Road (4)  
 Syrian Embassy, Nr. Medina Road (3)  
 American Embassy, Ruways Quarter (2)  
 Royal Palace (under construction), Ruways Quarter (1)  
 Royal Saudi Air Force Headquarters, King Saud Street (37)  
 Moroccan Embassy, King Saud Street (15)  
 Federal Republic of Germany Embassy, Ash Sharifiyah Quarter (13)  
 Parachute School, Kandara Quarter (38)  
 Parachute Battalion Headquarters, Kandara Quarter (39)  
 Airport Terminal Building (28)  
 Royal Saudi Air Force Operations Building, King Saud Street (30)  
 Belgian Embassy, King Saud Street (14)  
 Education Department Offices, Baghdadiya Quarter (17)  
 Spanish Embassy, Medina Road (8)  
 Swiss Embassy, Ruways Quarter (9)  
 Japanese Embassy, Ruways Quarter (10)  
 U.S.A.F. Training Mission, Ruways Quarter (7)  
 Lebanese Embassy, Medina Road (5)  
 Crown Prince's Palace, Medina Road (12)  
 Foreign Ministry, Airport Road (24)  
 Jidda Garrison and Area Command Headquarters, Airport Road (36)  
 Police Station, Harbour Road (32)  
 British Embassy, Harbour Road (34)  
 Pakistani Embassy, Harbour Road (40)  
 Royal Palace and Gardens, King Saud Street (53)

## The following banks are established in Jidda:

The Al Watani Bank  
 The Arab Bank  
 Banque de l'Indochine  
 Banque du Liban et d'Ostre-Mer  
 Bank Misr  
 British Bank of the Middle East  
 The Cairo Bank  
 First National City Bank of New York  
 The National Commercial Bank  
 The National Bank of Pakistan  
 The Riyadh Bank

## ACCOMMODATION

14.—(a) *Hotels*.—The following hotels may provide suitable accommodation:

	<i>No. of rooms</i>
Airport Hotel ... ..	200
Gardens Hotel, Airport Road ... ..	Not known
Al Harimayn Hotel, King Abdul Aziz Street	Not known
Kandara Palace Hotel, Airport Road (27) ...	Not known
New Al Harimayn Hotel, Baghdadiya Quarter (18) ... ..	Not known
Jidda Palace Hotel, Bab Jadid Area (35) ...	Not known
Red Sea Palace Hotel (33) ... ..	Not known



*(b) Barracks*

Parachute School (38)  
 Parachute Battalion (39)  
 Jidda Garrison (36)

*(c) Other Accommodation*

Pilgrim rest houses (21), (49)  
 TWA compound (20)  
 The Aramco compound  
 The Electricity Co. compound

A number of schools might in an emergency be made available.

## HOSPITALS

*No. of beds*

15. The General Hospital, King Abd al Azy Street (42) ...	300
The Lebanese Hospital, Kandara Quarter (31) ...	Not known
The Kandara Hospital, Airport Road (26) ...	Not known
King Saud Hospital, Airport Road (25) ...	Not known

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

16. *Electricity*.—Electric power supplied by the Saudi Electric Co. on an AC, 3-phase, 60-cycle system from two power stations (19), (50) with a total capacity of 27·650 kW.

17. *Water Supply*.—Adequate water supplied from springs situated 23 miles east of Jidda. There is sedimentation at source, water is then fed by pipeline to reservoirs 9 miles east of Jidda. Mains from these reservoirs connect with the distribution system on the city outskirts. A reservoir under construction is shown on Plan 2 at (16).

18. *Sewage Disposal*.—Waterborne system to septic tanks fitted in Government buildings, commercial houses and better type residences, primitive conditions elsewhere.

19. *Public Transport*.—No information.

20. *Fire Services*.—The fire station is shown on Plan 2 at (44). No information available regarding personnel or equipment.

21. *Telecommunications*.—Automatic telephone exchange serves the city. A line telegraph links Jidda with Mecca and Taif, from the Telecommunications Centre shown on Plan 2 at (43).

22. The country is covered with a radio network, connecting the principal cities and towns. Contact with world communication centres is maintained through the radio transmission station at Jidda. Aramco's internal telecommunication system is tied into the Saudi Arabian Government system.

There is a radio broadcasting station shown on Plan 2 at (57).

## INDUSTRY

23. Industries located in Jidda include: Four mineral water bottling plants (6), (45), (46), (54), a shoe and leather goods factory, a cement works, the quarrying and processing of marble, boat building, a pottery, a soap works, brick and tile works, a furniture factory, an industrial gas plant, a metal box factory (55) a fish processing plant (23) and a number of small cottage industries connected with the pilgrim trade.

24. *Repair Facilities*.—Heavy vehicle repairs can probably be undertaken by the RSAAF Motor Pool workshops (29), the Jidda Garrison workshops (36) and at the Royal garages (59). Light repairs can be undertaken at garages, and small machine shops in the town.

## STORAGE

25. *Cold Storage*.—Cold storage is available at the Shurbathi Cold Store and Ice Plant (48) capacity not known. The Coca Cola bottling plant (45) also manufactures ice.



26. *POL Storage*.—The Aramco depot shown on Plan 2 at (56) consists of 15 tanks with an approximate capacity of 90,000 tons.

27. *Covered Storage*.—Covered storage amounting to approximately 660,000 sq. ft (52) is available on Customs Island. The market (41) and a number of commercial warehouses throughout the town could possibly be made available.

28. *Open Storage*.—There are approximately 20,000 sq. yards of open storage on Customs Island. Other suitable areas are south-east of the lighter quay, at commercial compounds, in military installations and possibly near the SAM Syndicate pier (11).

#### LOCAL FOOD RESOURCES

29. Dates, which are the country's principal products, are largely exported through Jedda and are readily obtainable in the town. Small quantities of fish might also be on offer.

### RIYADH

24° 38' N., 46° 43' E. Population 169,185 (1962)

Plan 3

#### GENERAL

30. Riyadh is the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. A virtually new city has evolved from and been superimposed upon the old fortified town. New palaces, public buildings, mosques, schools, hospitals, boulevards and parks are rapidly replacing mud brick buildings and narrow lanes. Most of the Ministries and other agencies of the central Government which were once located in Mecca and Jiddah are now in Riyadh.

#### POPULATION AND LABOUR

31. At a survey taken in 1962 the population was 169,185, with a labour force of some 30,000. Limited skilled labour would be available at the Area Engineer's shops (4), at an industrial gas plant, the railway workshops, and at the beverage bottling plants. There would be sufficient unskilled labour available.

#### THROUGH ROUTES AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

32. Through routes are shown in red on the plan. They are four-lane divided highways with a waterproof surface which link the town with other routes leading to Marrat to the west, Al Kharj to the south and Dammam to the north.

33. Riyadh is the western terminus of the standard gauge 357-mile railway through the main oilfields to the Persian Gulf port of Dammam.

34. There is a joint civil/military airfield (1) with limited facilities and fuel storage.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

35. Administrative and public buildings in the city are mainly sited along the King Saud I Street, and comprise:

- The Irregular Army Headquarters (21)
- The Ministry of Agriculture (26)
- The Ministry of Commerce (32)
- Communications and Supreme Planning Board (25)
- Ministry of Defence and Aviation (16)
- Ministry of Finance (34)
- Ministry of Health (29A)
- Ministry of the Interior (17)
- Ministry of Education (29)
- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources (5)
- The King's Palace (33)
- Government Buildings (50)
- Prime Minister's Residence (28)



Court House (43)  
 Police Station (46)  
 Post Office and Telecommunications (42)  
 Prison (9)  
 The Air Force Academy  
 The Military Academy (12)  
 The School of Languages (15)  
 Riyadh University (20)  
 Royal University (30)  
 The Town Hall (51)  
 Residence of Minister of Communications (55)  
 (Private Radio Station)  
 The United Nations Office (48)  
 Area Command Headquarters (6)

## ACCOMMODATION

36. Buildings suitable for accommodation are reported to include:

Government Guest House  
 The Railway Hotel  
 The Airport Hotel

There are no details available regarding the number of rooms, but both the hotels are reported to be completely modern. Hotels are shown on Plan 3 at (18) and (37).

*Barracks.*—The Royal Guard Regimental Area (31)

*Other Accommodation.*—Other accommodation might be made available at:

Officers' and NCOs' Quarters (11)  
 The Military Academy (12)  
 The Air Force Academy  
 The Officers' Institute (15)  
 Riyadh University (20)  
 Warders' Quarters (10)

## HOSPITALS

					<i>No. of beds</i>
37. The Government Hospital	...	...	...	...	600
Military Hospital	...	...	...	...	Not known
Hospital for Chest Diseases	...	...	...	...	Not known
Royal Palace Hospital	...	...	...	...	Not known
Two Private Establishments	...	...	...	...	Not known

Hospitals are shown on Plan 3 at (7), (27), (4), (49).

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

38. *Electricity.*—Power is supplied by the Riyadh Electricity Affairs Department from four gas turbine generators and one diesel generator, giving a total installed capacity of 28,000 kW. There are in addition a number of small standby plants at public buildings and industrial plants throughout the city.

Power stations are shown on Plan 3 at (24), (36).

39. *Water Supply.*—Water is obtained from wells and boreholes north and south of the city and is only partially treated. Distribution mains are laid on the surface or less than 1 ft underground, and in conjunction with booster pumps, maintain a supply from reservoirs. Water is only treated to Western standards at the beverage bottling plants.

40. *Sewage Disposal.*—The newer public buildings, and the palaces and larger houses have septic tanks. Evaporation ponds have been built near the airfield for the Air Force Academy and the airfield facilities; elsewhere disposal is primitive.



41. *Public Transport.*—No information. There is probably a bus service serving the urban area.

42. *Fire Services.*—Two fire stations are shown on Plan 3 at (47), (52). No information is available regarding personnel or equipment.

43. *Telecommunications.*—Manual telephone exchange system within the city boundaries. Radio link with the national network, and via Jidda with world communications centres. There is a radio broadcasting station transmitting in Arabic. Radio installations are shown on Plan 3 at (2), (41), (53), (55).

#### INDUSTRY

44. There are three beverage bottling plants (23), (35), (54) in the city. Reports have indicated that a number of small ordnance factories have been established in Riyadh. Other industrial activity includes the production of industrial gases and handicraft industries supplying a local need. An asphalt heating plant (38) is shown on Plan 3.

45. *Repair Facilities.*—Heavy and light repairs can probably be carried out at:

- Military Workshops (3)
- Area Engineer's Maintenance Yard (4)
- PWD Yard (13)
- The Municipal MT Yard (14)
- The Royal Garage Workshop (44)
- Motor Pool Maintenance Shops (45)

Light repairs only at garages in the town.

#### STORAGE

46. *Cold Storage.*—Two cold stores (8), (22) capacity unknown.

47. *POL Storage.*—At Riyadh Airport. Four underground tanks. Total capacity 60,000 gallons. Normally two tanks store avgas, and two tanks storing commercial fuel.

48. *Covered Storage.*—In warehouse area. A reception hall (19), schools and military depots might be made available. A large military depot is reported at Al Kharj near the railway 50 miles south-east of Riyadh. Reserves of ammunition, AFV, artillery and motor transport are probably held. POL facilities with a capacity of 250 tons are also reported.

49. *Open Storage.*—At the railway depot, and at the race track.

50. *Local Food Resources.*—Most food supplies would have to be imported.

#### DAMMAM

26° 26' N., 50° 07' E. Population 45,000 (1960)

#### GENERAL

51. Dammam is the principal Persian Gulf seaport of Saudi Arabia, the capital of the Eastern Province, and the eastern terminus of the Saudi Government Railway. Development in recent years has been very rapid owing to the activities of, and aid provided by Aramco. As a result of this development industrial areas are concentrated at:

- (a) The SG railway yard complex.
- (b) An industrial tract on the new Al Khobar road beginning 1½ miles south-east of South Dammam.

Commercial areas are located along Faysal Avenue and Saud Avenue.

Residential areas are:

- (a) The old city, *i.e.*, the area north of Saud Avenue.
- (b) South Dammam: *i.e.*, the Aramco-developed housing area bounded by Ninth Street, Al Khobar Avenue, Fifth Street, Talal Street, Eleventh Street and Mesh'al Street.



- (c) Adana, which in general takes in the area south of Saud Avenue, north of the Dammam Highway and lying between Eleventh and Eighteenth Street. There is scattered commercial activity in this area.

#### POPULATION AND LABOUR

52. The population of Dammam in 1960 was 45,000. The overwhelming majority are Sunni Muslim, no more than 5-10 per cent being Shia.

53. In addition to Saudi nationals there are minority groups of Indians, Pakistanis, Iranians and Palestinian Arabs. The Iranians, Pakistani and Indians are generally found among the merchant and artisan classes. There is an increasing number of non-Saudi Arab craftsmen and white-collar workers available. Skilled and unskilled labour are employed by Aramco. There would be adequate unskilled labour, a large number being Omani.

#### THROUGH ROUTES AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

54. Through routes in Dammam are waterproof surfaced and link the town with other routes leading to Dhahran, Al Khobar and with the Dammam-Riyadh highway.

55. Dammam is the terminus of the Saudi Government Railway to Riyadh.

56. There is an international airport at Dhahran 10 miles to the south.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

57. No detailed information is available regarding administrative and public buildings in the city. The Ministry of Finance is located near Saud Avenue and there would be the normal buildings necessary for municipal and provincial government, in addition to a number of commercial houses. The following banks have branches in Dammam:

The Arab Bank Ltd.  
Banque de l'Indo Chine  
National Commercial Bank  
Netherlands Trading Society  
Riyadh Bank.

#### ACCOMMODATION

##### 58. Hotels

				No. of rooms
Al Jabri, Eleventh Street	...	...	...	Not known
Al Dosair, Faysal Street	...	...	...	Not known

##### *Aramco Guest Houses*

Steincke Hall	...	...	...	19 double 24 single
			Total	72 beds
Hamilton House	...	...	...	4 twin bedrooms 2 suites
			Total	12 beds
VIP Guest House No. 17	...	...	...	2 twin bedrooms
VIP Guest House No. 176	...	...	...	3 twin bedrooms

##### *Barracks*

Military barracks with accommodation for approximately 750 men.



*Other Accommodation*

## Aramco bachelor housing—

Senior Staff Camp	...	...	340 bed spaces
Intermediate Camp	...	...	75 units of 24 beds each
General Camp	...	...	5,700–6,000 beds
SG Railway Compound	...	...	50 married quarters

## HOSPITALS

		<i>No. of beds</i>
59. Provincial hospital under construction	...	Not known
King Abd al Azy Hospital, reported to be in a serious state of disrepair. Renovation is however in progress	...	450

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

60. *Electricity*.—Supplied by the Dammam Electric Supply Co., Uppa Road, by diesel generators on an AC, 3-phase, 60-cycle, system. The railway and harbour authorities have their own supply.

61. *Water Supply*.—An underground system of 3-in. steel pipes distributes water to residences in South Dammam from two wells via a 33,000-gallon water tank on Eleventh Street; the water is potable but untreated. The remainder of the town is supplied from wells, but delivery is by water cart. A new system is planned which will provide a supply of 40 to 50 gallons of potable water per head daily from new boreholes and wells.

62. *Sewage Disposal*.—A piped system operates in the Aramco-developed area of south Dammam. The remaining districts are served by septic tanks and cesspits. Proposals for an up-to-date system are under consideration.

63. *Public Transport*.—Privately-owned bus fleets operate throughout the city and neighbouring areas.

64. *Fire Service*.—Municipal Fire Station on Sixteenth Street is equipped with one Ford pumper and one water tank. The brigade is reported to be 25 strong. The Southern Arabian Government Railway operate their own brigade.

65. *Telecommunications*.—Telephone and telegraph services are provided by the Aramco telecommunications system, which also provides sound and vision broadcasting programmes.

## INDUSTRY

66. The oil industry, and the port operators are the largest employers. Other industrial activity in addition to the SG Railway includes:

- Industrial gas bottling
- Mineral water bottling
- Two cement works
- Four small iron works
- One paper products plant
- One cement block plant
- One concrete pipe plant
- Two printing plants.

67. *Repair Facilities*.—The bus companies are all reported to have their own maintenance shops. The PWD and Aramco workshops would also be available.

## STORAGE

68. *Cold Storage*.—The following cold stores are located in Dammam:

- (a) Al Gosaybi, cold stores capacity 107,000 cu. ft.
- (b) Al Shurbathi, cold stores capacity 53,000 cu. ft.
- (c) Desco Power Plant, four refrigerated rooms approximate total capacity 8,000 cu. ft. Used in conjunction with Desco Ice Plant.

There are numerous grocery stores with small refrigerators and freezers.



69. *Ice Plants*—

- (a) Refreshment and Industrial Co., capacity 50 tons/day.
- (b) Hamed Al Naim, capacity 7 tons/day.
- (c) Desco Ice Plant, capacity 10 tons/day.

70. *POL Storage*.—No information on facilities in the city. Aramco installations at Ras Tanura refinery would be available.

71. *Covered Storage*.—Covered storage in the area consists of:

- (a) The Al Qatani air-conditioned warehouse, 7,500 sq. ft in Rahman Street.
- (b) Warehouse, 32,000 sq. ft, Ninth Street.
- (c) 24 warehouses, 280,000 sq. ft in the vicinity of the SAG RR yards.
- (d) Customs warehouses with a total storage area of at least 250,000 sq. ft in the port area.
- (e) Two Customs sheds approximately 180 ft × 450 ft each on the new deep water quay.

72. *Open Storage*.—Open storage space available in the customs area and near the railway yards.

## LOCAL FOOD RESOURCES

73. Fruit and vegetables are available from local market gardens.

## AL KHOBAR

26° 17' N., 50° 12' E. Population 38,500 (1960)

## GENERAL

74. Al Khobar, a small port and residential city on the Persian Gulf, depends on the retail sale of luxury items for its prosperity and has a joint Chamber of Commerce with Dammam.

75. There is no defined industrial area, but commercial areas are in general concentrated on streets immediately adjacent to Prince Khalid Avenue, between Dhahran Road and Sixth Street.

## 76. Residential areas are located at:

- (a) *Al Khobar centre*.—Residences intermingled with commercial activities.
- (b) *Al Khobar west*.—Middle to high income modern residential area still under development.
- (c) *Al Subaika*.—The oldest residential section of Al Khobar contains a scattering of shops and crafts serving local inhabitants.
- (d) *Al Thuqba*.—Low income group residential area. Originally developed as an Aramco-initiated settlement of Bedouin who had squatted round the oil camp. The majority of the dwellings are crude shanties. Commercial activity is limited to a small market place and scattered shops and crafts catering for local needs.
- (e) *Al Agrabiya*.—A squalid low-income residential area. The Government school is the only permanent structure.

## POPULATION AND LABOUR

77. The population of Al Khobar in 1960 was 38,500. Skilled and unskilled labour are employed by Aramco, there would be adequate unskilled labour.

## THROUGH ROUTES AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

78. Through routes in Al Khobar are waterproof surfaced and link with other routes leading to Dhahran, Dammam and with the Dammam-Riyadh highway.

79. The SG Railway at Dammam is easily reached from Al Khobar.

80. The international airport at Dhahran serves the town.



## ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

81. No detailed information is available regarding administrative and public buildings in Al Khobar. There would be buildings necessary to carry on the municipal government of the city, in addition to a number of commercial houses.

The following banks have branches in Al Khobar:

The Arab Bank  
Banque du Cairo  
Banque de l'Indochine  
British Bank of the Middle East  
National Commercial Bank  
Netherlands Trading Society  
Riyadh Bank.

## ACCOMMODATION

82. The accommodation listed below is available:

<i>Hotels</i>	<i>No. of rooms</i>
Al Nasir, Prince Khalid Avenue ... ..	21
New Hotel (air conditioned), Dhahran Road...	25 plus 12 suites

*Other Accommodation.*—Schools in the area might be made available if necessary.

## HOSPITALS

	<i>No. of beds</i>
83. Ministry of Health Hospital, Dhahran Road ... ..	30
Al Sharg General Hospital, Dhahran Road ... ..	92-99
Al Khobar Maternity and Pediatric Hospital (being expanded ... ..)	105
Al Amana Eye Hospital Private Clinic, Third Street ...	Not known
Al Fakry Hospital Private Clinic, Third Street ...	Not known

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

84. *Electricity.*—Supplied by the Al Khobar Electric Co., Prince Talal Avenue, from diesel generators on an AC, 3-phase, 50-cycle, system.

85. *Water Supply.*—A mains supply system provides water in West Al Khobar. In Al Thugba untreated water is supplied by pipe to about 100 houses and several water points. The remainder of the city depends on privately-owned wells. A new water system is planned whereby 40 to 50 gallons of potable water per head daily will be supplied.

86. *Sewage Disposal.*—No central system. The city is served by septic tanks and cesspits. The installation of a new system is under consideration.

87. *Public Transport.*—Privately-owned bus services operate throughout the town and to Dammam.

88. *Fire Services.*—Brigade equipped with one Mercedes pump, one Ford pump and two water tankers. Personnel number 33.

89. *Telecommunications.*—Telephone and telegraph services are provided by the Aramco telecommunications system, who also provide sound and vision radio programmes. The Aramco system is linked with the Saudi Arabian Government telecommunications system for country-wide and overseas communications.

## INDUSTRY

90. Light industry established in Al Khobar includes:

One industrial gas bottling plant  
Two mineral water bottling plants  
Two wood-working shops  
One metal-working shop  
One paper sack factory  
One cement plant  
The Saudi Salt Mining Company.



91. *Repair Facilities.*—The bus companies are reported to have their own maintenance workshops. Light repairs could be undertaken by garages in the town.

#### STORAGE

92. *Cold Storage.*—No commercial cold storage. Numerous grocery stores have small refrigerators and freezers.

#### 93. *Ice Plants.*—

(a) The industrial gas bottling plant manufactures dry ice, capacity not known.

(b) The Pepsi Cola plant has an ice-making capacity of 50 tons/day.

(c) The Almana Ice Plant, Prince Talal Avenue, capacity 4 tons/day.

94. *POL Storage.*—No information.

95. *Covered Storage.*—A few small private warehouses.

96. *Open Storage.*—Open spaces in the town.

#### LOCAL FOOD RESOURCES

97. Fruit and vegetables are obtained locally.

### CHAPTER 3

#### OTHER TOWNS

98. The following table gives information on other towns in Saudi Arabia of administrative or commercial significance. The location of each town is shown on Plan 1.

Town	General headquarters	Public utilities	Other information
<b>Dhahran</b> 26° 18' N., 50° 08' E. Population 11,000 (1962)	Aramco headquarters, United States-type town. Road connection with Dammam	Electric power capacity 25,000 kW. Air conditioning. Adequate water supply	Hospital, cinema and sports field. Fish, fruit and vegetables obtainable locally
<b>Hofuf</b> 25° 22' N., 49° 34' E. Population 60,000 (1962)	Administrative headquarters for Haisa province. Centre of Hofuf oasis. Walled city with large market. Connected by rail with Dammam and Riyadh. Airport and bus station	Electric power capacity 1,430 kW. Plentiful water supply	Hotel, two hospitals, many schools. Large exporter of dates
<b>Mecca</b> 21° 28' N., 39° 48' E. Population 159,000 (1962)	Muslim holy city. Capital of Hejaz province. Connected by waterproof road with Jidda	Electric power capacity 6,660 kW. Adequate water supplies	Two hospitals, hotels and guest houses, schools and a college
<b>Medina</b> 24° 28' N., 39° 36' E. Population 71,998 (1962)	Muslim holy city. Connected by road with Jidda and Yenbo	Electric power capacity 3,260 kW. Piped water supply	Plentiful water permits cultivation of fruits and vegetables in excess of local requirements
<b>Taif</b> 21° 16' N., 40° 24' E. Population 53,954 (1962)	Summer capital of the Hejaz. Connected by waterproof-surfaced road with Mecca and Jidda. Joint civil and military airfield	Electric power capacity 4,240 kW. Plentiful water supply	Hotel, guest house, modern hospital, Government buildings



## D. 14/VIII (B)

## BRITISH INTELLIGENCE SURVEY ON SAUDI ARABIA

## Part VIII B: TOWNS

## INITIAL DISTRIBUTION

## EXTERNAL

*War Office*

M.O. 4

M.I. 4

E. 1 (b)

H.Q. 3 Division

M. Attaché, Baghdad

M. Attaché, Amman

Security 2 (a)—Stock

D. Mil. Survey (J.I.B.)

*Air Ministry*

A.M.O.C.

J.A.R.I.C. (U.K.)

J.I.B., Ottawa

J.I.B., Canberra

J.I.B., Wellington

J.I.B. Rep., Cyprus

J.I.B. Rep., Aden

Foreign Office

## INTERNAL

D.O.

J/1

J/3 B/2

A/3

C.B.O.—Stock



Key Points are numbered from North to South approximately

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Irregular Army H.Q.	21
Ministry of Agriculture	26
Ministry of Commerce	32
Supreme Planning Board	16
Ministry of Defence and Aviation	34
Ministry of Finance	29A
Ministry of Health	17
Ministry of the Interior	29
Ministry of Education	33
King's Palace	5
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources	50
Government Buildings	28
Prime Minister's Residence	43
Court House	46
Police Station	42
Post Office and Telecommunication Office	9
Prison	12
Military Academy	20
Military School of Languages	30
Riyadh University	51
Royal University	55
The Town Hall	48
Residence of the Minister of Communications (Private Radio Station)	48
United Nations Office	6
Area Command Headquarters	31

## ACCOMMODATION

Hotels	18, 37
Barracks	
Royal Guards Barracks	31

## OTHER ACCOMMODATION

Officers' and N.C.O.s' Quarters	11
Military Academy	12
Officers' Institute	15
Riyadh University	20
Warders' Quarters	10

## HOSPITALS

Hospitals are shown at 7, 27, 40, 49

## TRANSPORTATION

Airfield 1

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

Electricity	
Power Stations	24, 36
Fire Services	
Fire Stations	47, 52
Telecommunications	
Radio Stations	2, 41, 53, 55

## INDUSTRY

Mineral Water Bottling Plants	23, 35, 54
Asphalt Heating Unit	38

## REPAIR FACILITIES

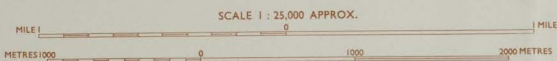
Military Workshops	3
Area Engineers' Maintenance Yard	4
Royal Garage Workshops	44
Motor Pool Maintenance Shops	45
P.W.D. Yard	13
Municipal M.T. Yard	14

## STORAGE

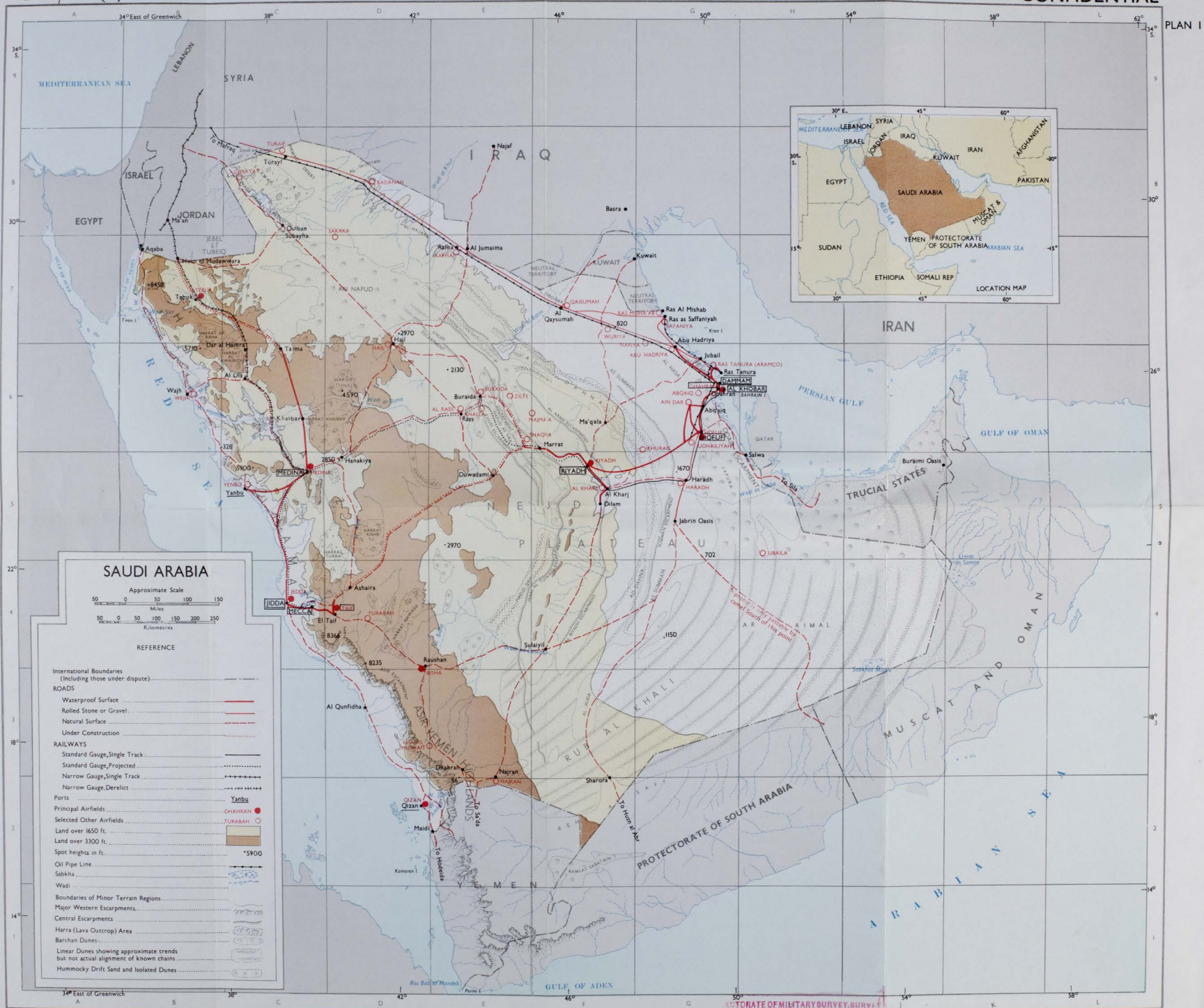
Cold Storage	
Cold Stores	8, 22
Covered Storage	19

## OPEN STORAGE

Railway Yards	39
Through Routes	









Key Points are numbered from North to South approximately

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Royal Palace	53
Royal Palace (under construction)	1
Crown Prince's Palace	12
American Embassy	2
Belgian Embassy	14
British Embassy	34
Federal Republic of Germany Embassy	13
Japanese Embassy	10
Lebanese Embassy	5
Moroccan Embassy	15
Pakistani Embassy	40
Spanish Embassy	8
Sudanese Embassy	51
Swiss Embassy	9
Syrian Embassy	3
U.S.A.F. Training Embassy	7
Thailand Consulate	24
Education Department	17
Quarantine Station	58
Customs House	52
Saudi Air Force H.Q.	27
Parachute Regiment School	38
Parachute Battalion H.Q.	39
Airport Terminal Building	28
Saudi Air Force Operations Building	30
Jidda Garrison H.Q.	36
Police Station	32

## ACCOMMODATION

Hotels	
Kandara Palace Hotel	37
New Al Huraym Hotel	18
Jidda Palace Hotel	35
Red Sea Palace Hotel	33
Barracks	
Parachute School	38
Parachute Battalion	39
Jidda Garrison	36
Other Accommodation	
Pilgrim Rest Houses	21, 49
T.W.A. Compound	20
Aramco Compound	47

## HOSPITALS

The General Hospital	42
The Lebanese Hospital	31
The Kandara Hospital	26
King Saud Hospital	25

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

Electricity	
Power Stations	19, 50
Water Supply	
Reservoir under construction	16
Fire Services	
Fire Station	44
Telecommunications	
Telecommunications Centre	43
Broadcasting Station	57

## TRANSPORTATION

Airfield	22
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## INDUSTRY

Mineral Water Plants	6, 45, 46, 54
Metal Box Factory	55
Fish Processing Plant	23

## REPAIR FACILITIES

Saudi Air Force Workshops	29
Jidda Garrison Workshops	36
Royal Garages	59

## STORAGE

Cold Stores	
Shurubath Cold Store and Ice Plant	48
P.O.L.	
Aramco Depot	56
Covered Storage	
Customs Island Storage	52
Market	41

## OPEN STORAGE

SAM Syndicate	11
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## Through Routes

## NOTE

"This map/plan should be used only in conjunction with the text that it illustrates, including any changes or additions contained in a Check Bulletin, or other amendment(s)."

FEET 2000 1000 0 2000 4000 6000 8000 FEET  
METRES 1000 500 0 1000 2000 METRES

DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY SURVEYS  
MAP/PLAN 2 - 4 AUG 1964  
REFERENCE: D14/VIII B

Compiled and drawn by J.I.B. Feb. 1964



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